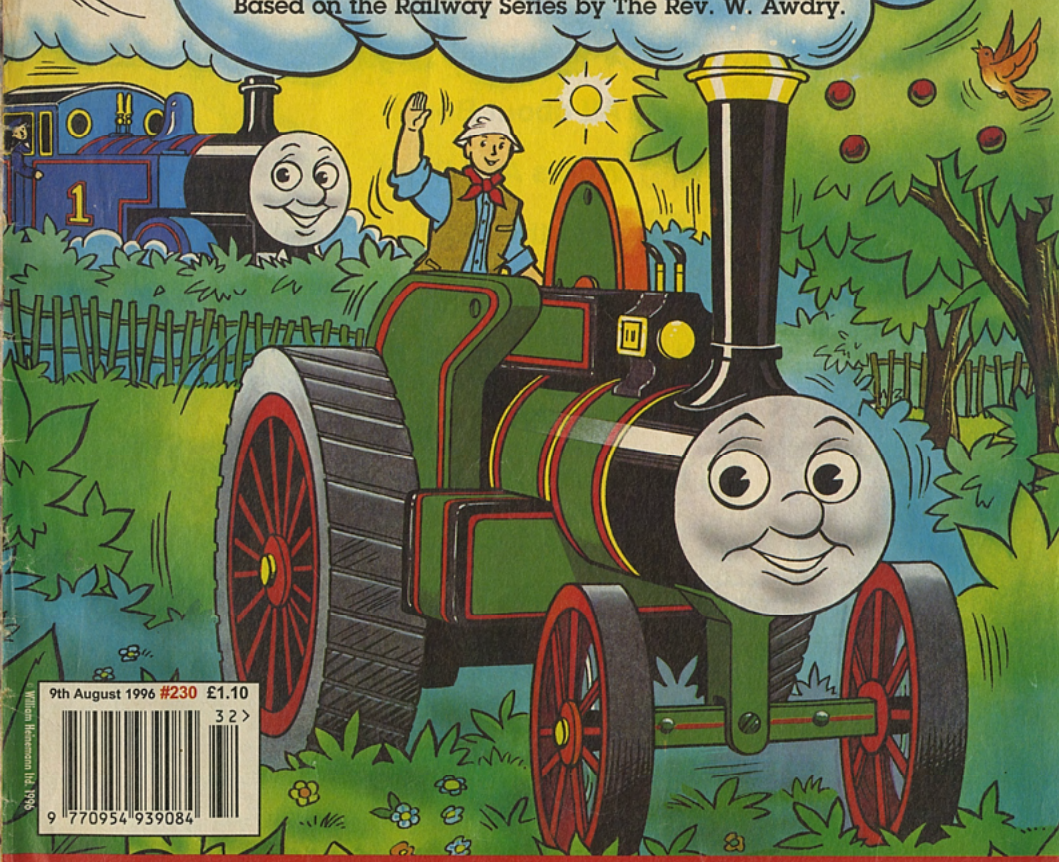
MARVEL COMICS

More summer fun!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



9th August 1996 #230 £1.10

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William Heinemann Ltd. 1996

All about Boco! Fantastic Thomas prizes!

Hello, everybody!

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32 Photo album: Rheneas

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....

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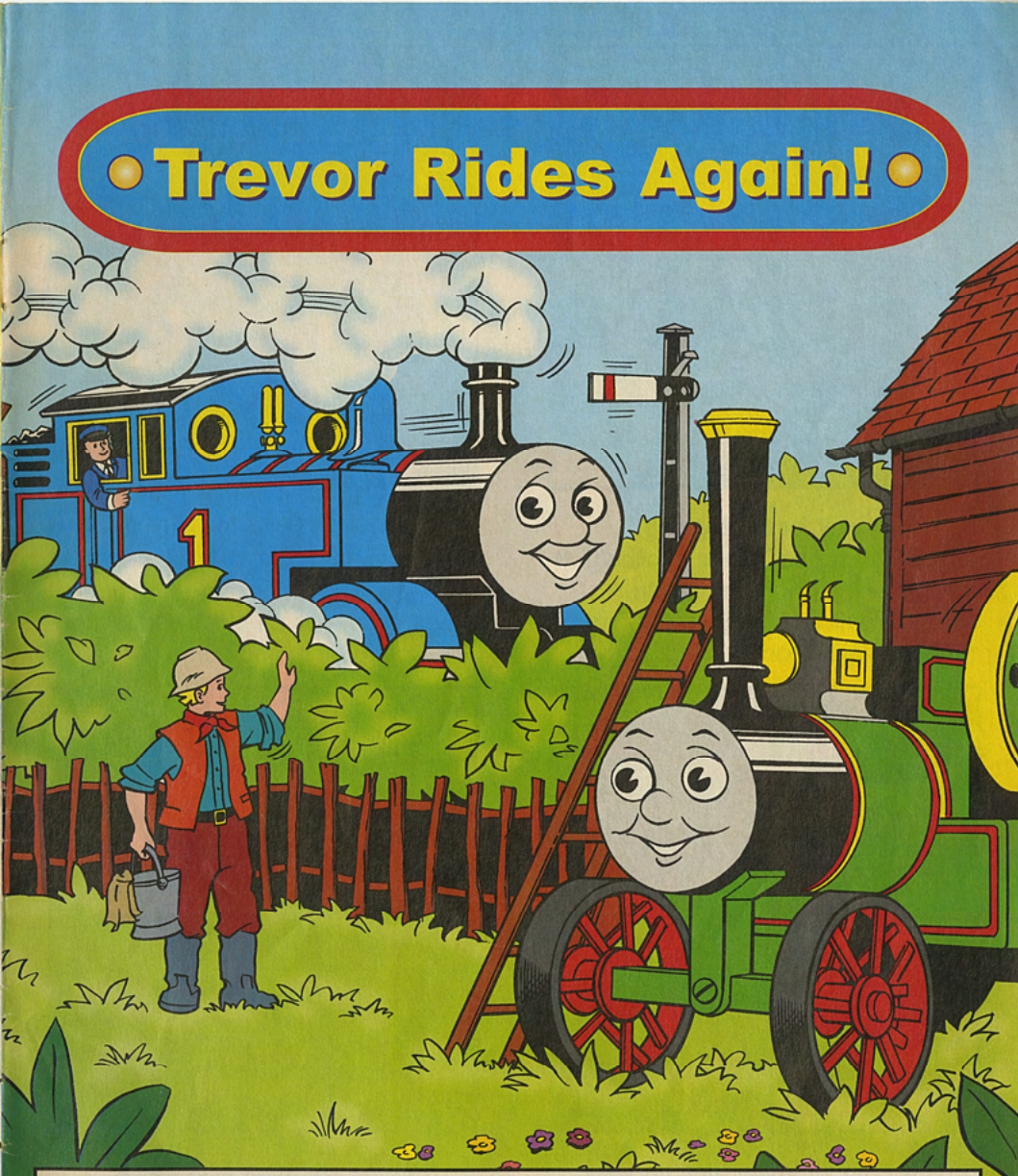
Trevor Rides Again!



1. Thomas was very busy as he helped to get everything ready for the summer fete. He was really excited. The little tank engine puffed to and fro, carrying all kinds of equipment.

2. When he pulled up at a signal by the Vicarage Orchard, Thomas saw Trevor the Traction Engine standing outside his shed. His driver, Jem Cole, was cleaning and oiling him.

3. "I can't wait for the big day, tomorrow!" called Trevor, excitedly. "I always enjoy giving the children rides!" "You'll look very smart, thanks to Jem," said Thomas, kindly.

4. The signal changed and Thomas set off again. Later, he returned to the Main Station. A retired engine driver, who was an old friend of the Fat Controller's, had come to visit.

5. The Fat Controller was showing him around the yard. "I've driven every type of engine," said the visitor. Then he spotted Thomas. "Including tank engines," he added.

6. Thomas soon left with more goods for the fete. When he stopped by Trevor's shed again, the traction engine looked sad. "I won't be at the fete, after all!" he sighed.

7. Next moment, Thomas saw that Jem had his arm bandaged. "I slipped off my ladder while I was polishing Trevor's funnel," he told Thomas' driver. "I've sprained my arm."

8. "I won't be able to drive Trevor for a little while," Jem went on. "Oh, no! The children will be really disappointed!" said Thomas. "There must be something we can do!"

9. When the Fat Controller heard, he shook his head. "I'm afraid I can't spare a driver tomorrow," he said. "What about your visitor?" asked Thomas. But the man had already left.

10. "He'll be at the Big Harbour by now, waiting to catch his boat back to the mainland," the Fat Controller explained. But he sent Gordon, the fastest engine, to try and stop him.

11. Gordon broke his own speed record to the Big Harbour. He was just in time. The retired driver was only too pleased to help. Thomas took him to see Trevor and Jem Cole.

12. Jem told him all he needed to know about the traction engine. That night, the visitor stayed with the Fat Controller and Lady Hatt, ready to take Trevor to the fete next day.

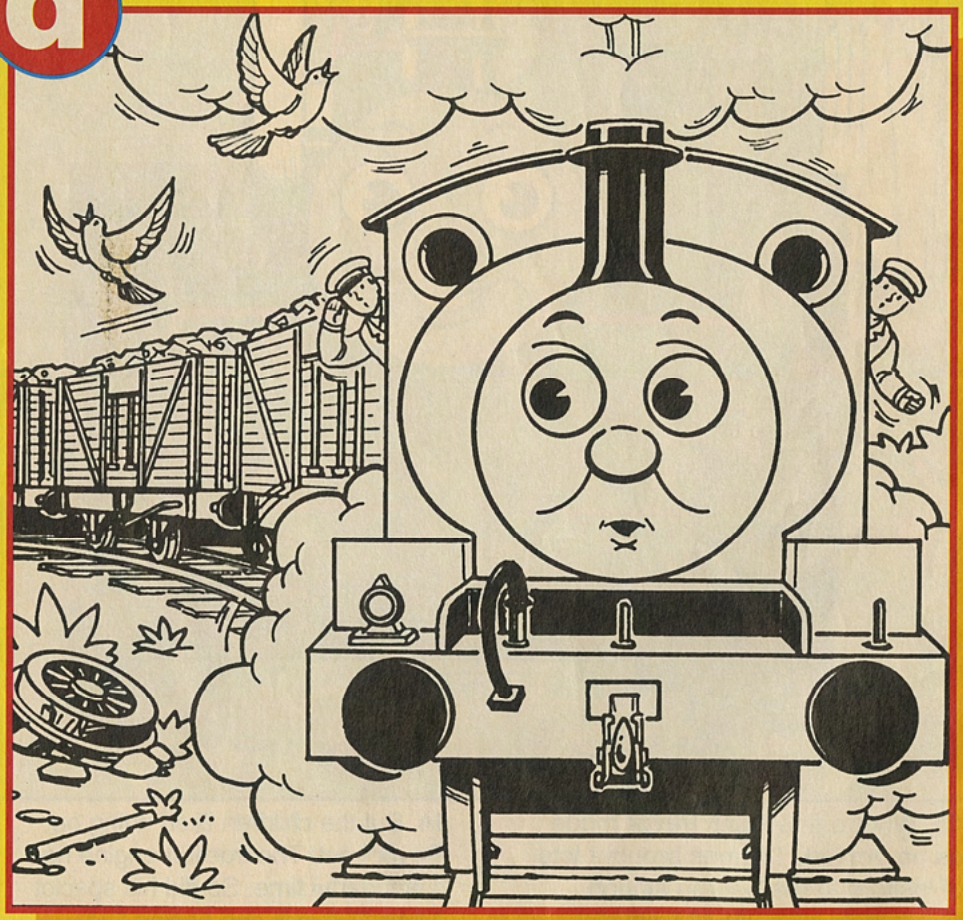
13. What a fine sight Trevor made as he arrived. Thomas brought lots of visitors to the nearby station. There were all sorts of colourful attractions for everyone to enjoy.

14. But the children liked riding on Trevor best. The traction engine had a wonderful time. So did his special driver. "Trevor's one engine I've never driven before!" he smiled.

Spot the d

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them!

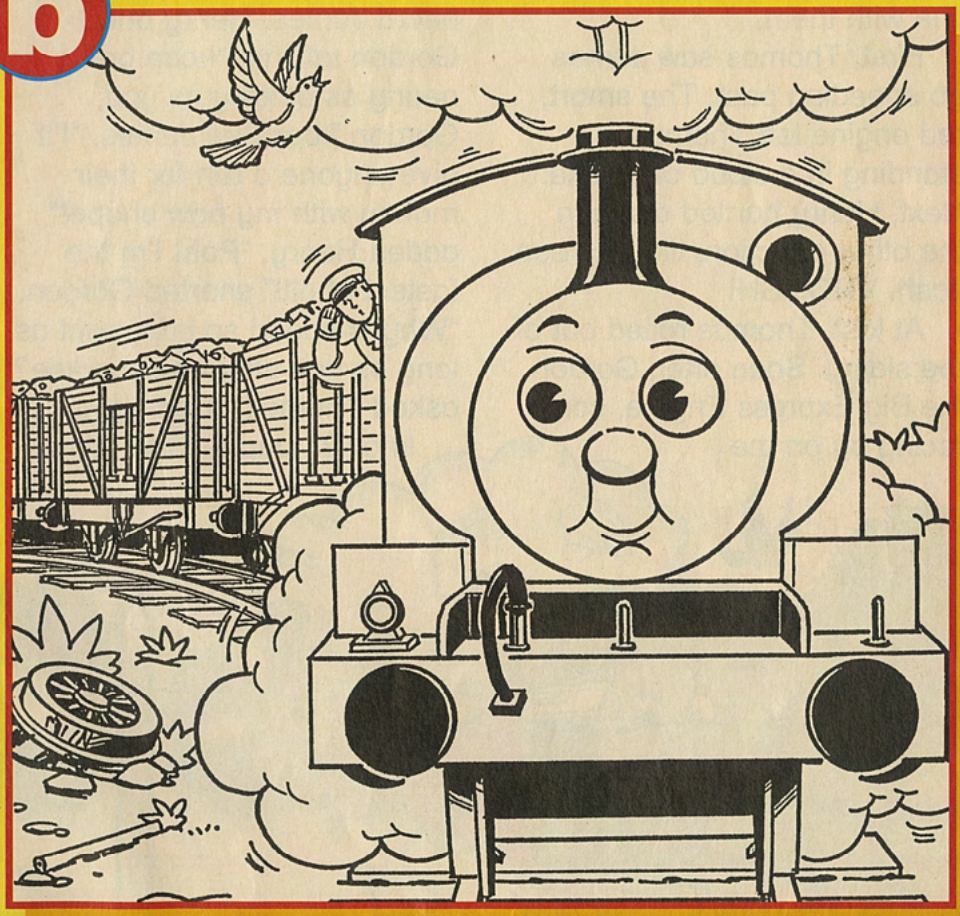
a



lifference!

Can you spot the six changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

b



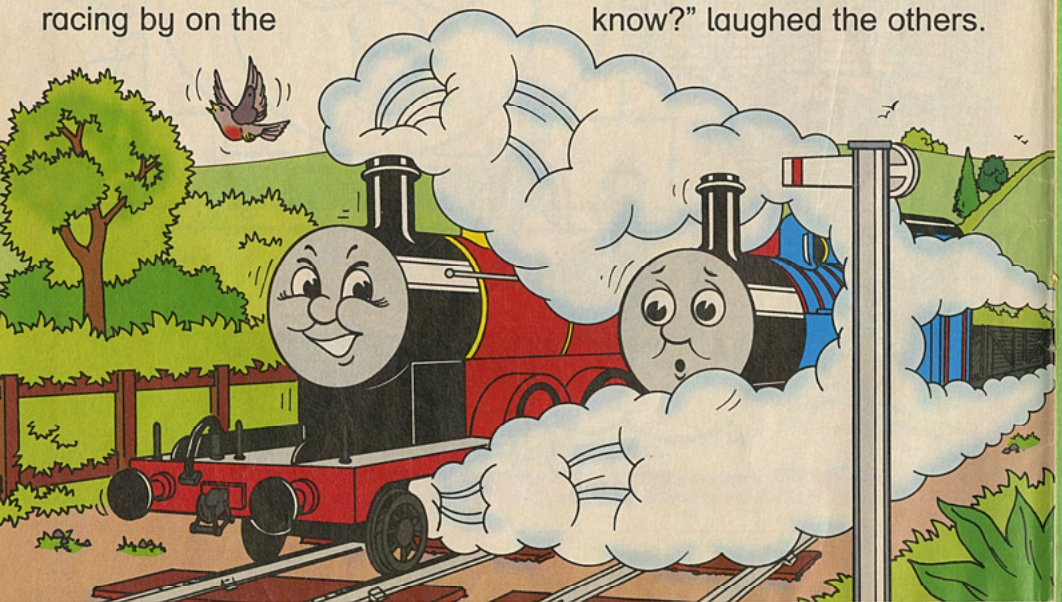
Not So Fast!

Thomas had collected some trucks from a siding. He waited at a signal before moving on to the busy main line with them.

First, Thomas saw James go speeding past. The smart, red engine left Thomas standing in a cloud of smoke. Next, Henry hurtled along in the other direction, like a green flash. VROOSH!

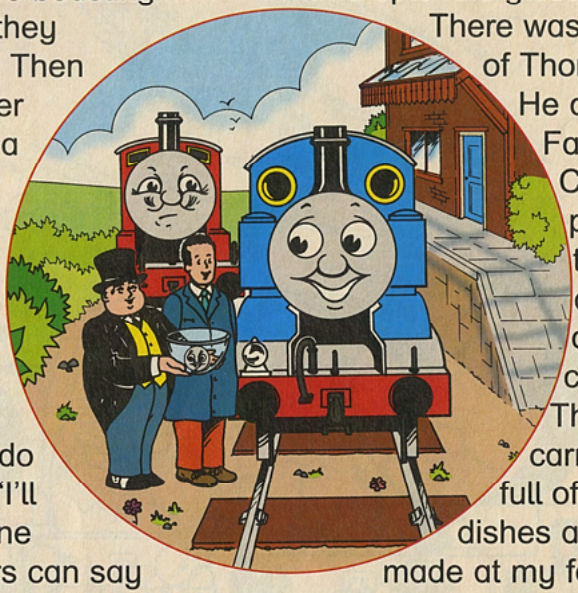
At last, Thomas rolled out of the siding. Soon after, Gordon, the Big Express Engine, came racing by on the other line. "PHEEEEP!" he whistled, startling Thomas.

That night, in the engine shed, the little tank engine heard James, Henry and Gordon talking. "I can go nearly as quickly as you, Gordon," boasted James. "I'll give anyone a run for their money with my new shape!" added Henry. "Pah! I'm the fastest of all!" snorted Gordon. "Why is speed so important as long as you stay on schedule?" asked Thomas. "Don't you know?" laughed the others.



"Because going really fast is being Really Useful!" How Thomas wished he was a fast, sleek engine. He felt really slow and useless!

Next morning, James, Henry and Gordon were boasting about how fast they would go again. Then the Fat Controller arrived. "I need a Really Useful Engine to make a very important delivery," he said. "That's me!" called James. "No, I'll do it!" said Henry. "I'll have the job done before the others can say 'troublesome trucks'!" sniffed Gordon boastfully.



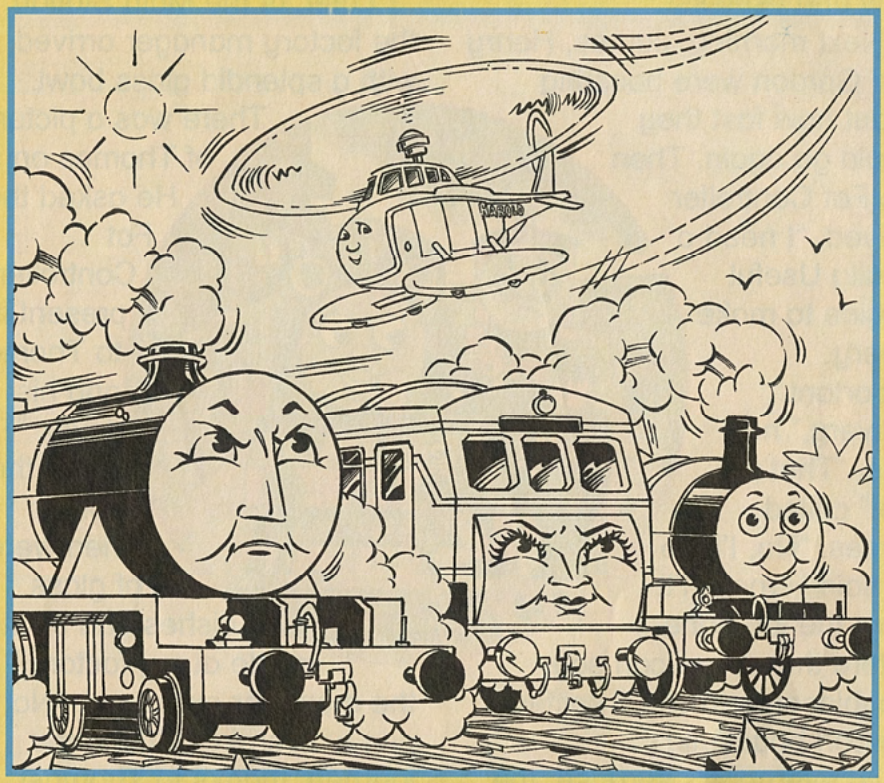
To everyone's surprise, the Fat Controller asked Thomas to make the special run. He was coupled to a goods wagon. Then Thomas went to a factory where lots of wooden crates were loaded aboard his train. Thomas took them to the Big Harbour, to be shipped to the mainland. He wondered why one of the faster engines hadn't been chosen. So did they as they rushed sulkily past, one by one, on the other side of the track.

Later, at the Main Station, the factory manager arrived with a splendid glass bowl. There was a picture of Thomas on it. He asked the Fat Controller to present it to Thomas and his driver. "The crates that Thomas carried were full of glass dishes and bowls made at my factory," the manager explained. "Not one was broken during the journey, thanks to Thomas!" "I didn't want a fast engine taking such a delicate load," said the Fat Controller. "Thomas is steady, careful and reliable."

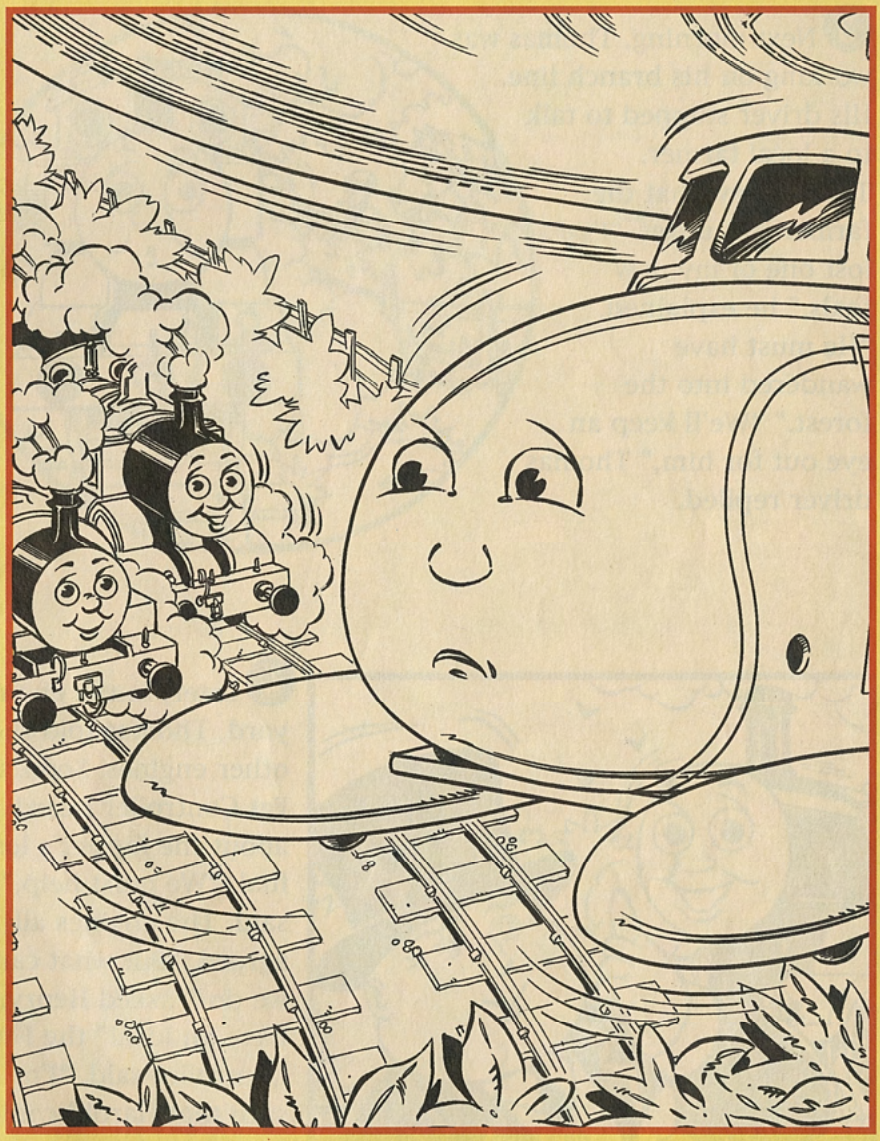
Thomas felt very proud. "So, going slowly can be Really Useful, too!" he smiled cheekily at James who stood in a siding nearby.

A read & colour story

Harold's Adventure!

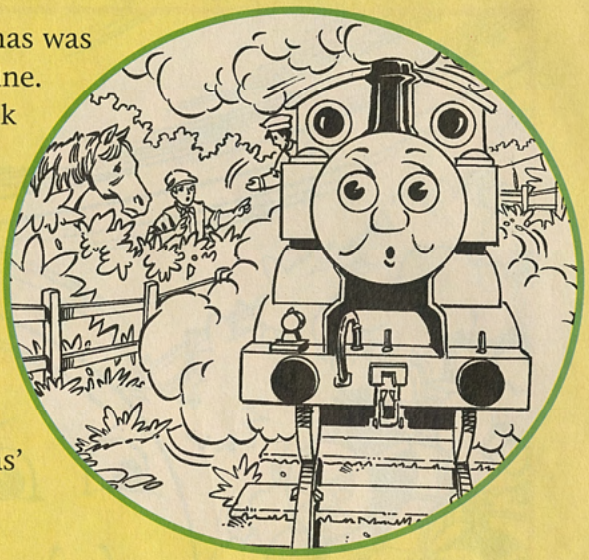


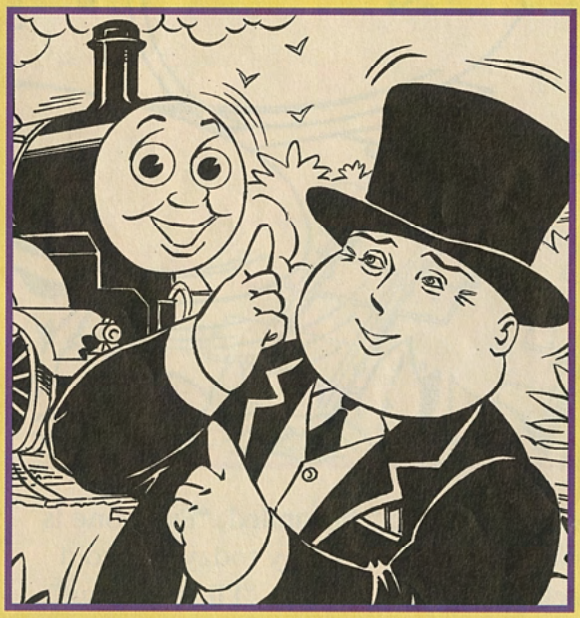
1 It had been a busy week on the Island of Sodor. The engines were all very tired and rather grumpy. Harold, however, had lots of energy! He began to annoy the engines as he circled noisily above them. "Hello everyone!" he called cheerfully as he landed. "You make too much noise," Henry replied crossly. "Yes, that's all you seem to do!" said Daisy. "What's the matter with everyone?" Harold asked. "Being Really Useful is quite tiring you know!" Daisy snorted. "You have so much energy because you don't have much work to do." she continued rudely.



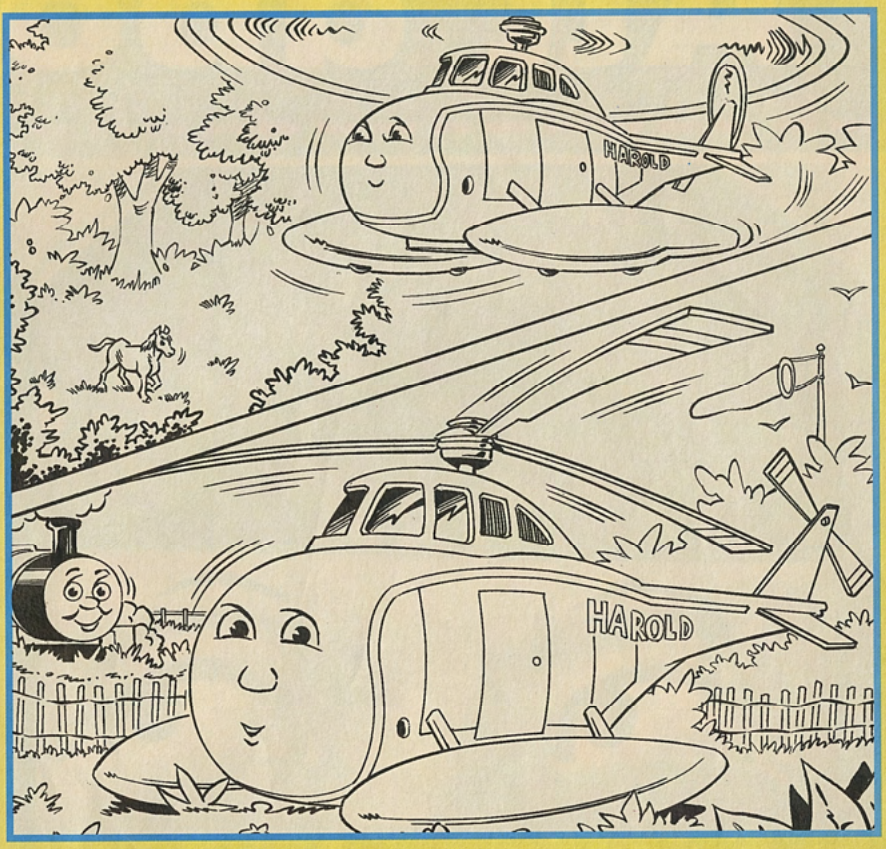
2 Harold's smile faded. "That's not true," he said, "I'm very Useful!" Percy stuck up for his friend. "Of course you are," he smiled, "Everyone is just grumpy today." Harold still felt sad. "I'll show you!" he called as he flew off.

3 Next morning, Thomas was working on his branch line. His driver stopped to talk to a local farmer. Thomas saw that the farmer was upset. "I've lost one of my new foals," he explained, "He must have wandered into the forest." "We'll keep an eye out for him," Thomas' driver replied.





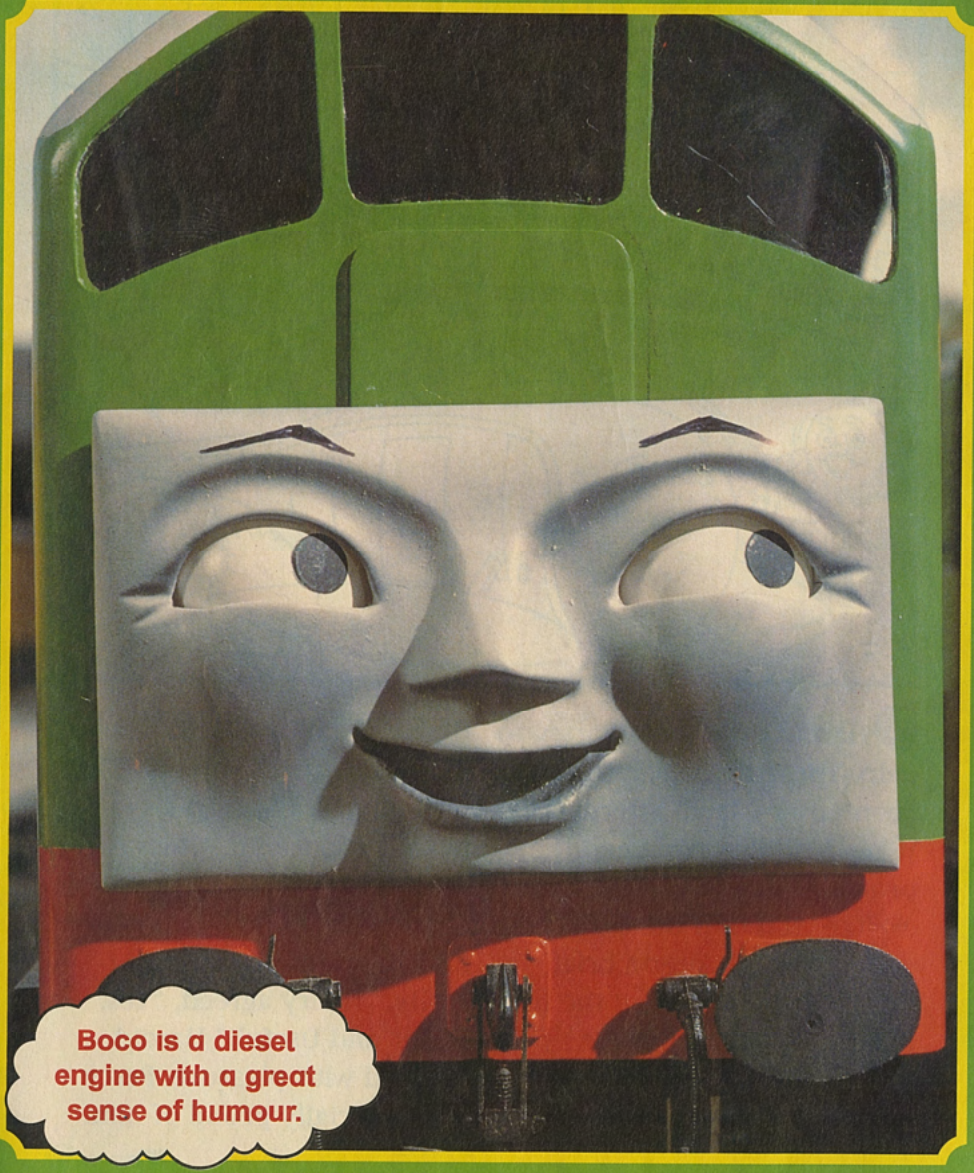
4 Later, in the engine yard, Thomas told the other engines. Soon, the Fat Controller heard about the farmer's lost foal. "We must help," he said. The engines all agreed. "But what can we do?" asked Henry. "I have an idea!" the Fat Controller said. "I'm sure that Harold could find the missing foal." He went to call Harold's pilot at Dryaw Airfield.



5 Harold's pilot was happy to help. The little helicopter had been miserable all afternoon. When his pilot explained the problem, Harold was very excited. "I'll find the foal!" he cried proudly. After a brief search, Harold spotted the foal in a small clearing in the forest. The farmer was easily able to find him. "Thank you Harold," the farmer called as the helicopter flew away. The next day, all the engines were talking about him. "Hooray for Harold!" they cried. "I'm sorry about what I said," Daisy told him. "You're very clever really." Henry agreed, "Yes, clever and Useful!" Harold blushed with pleasure. Percy was especially proud of him.

The end

All abou

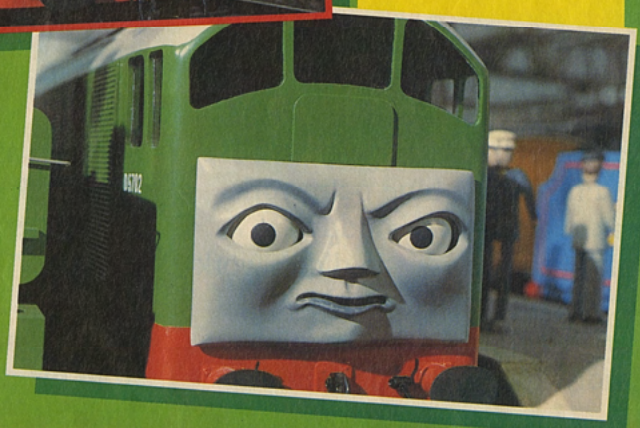


Boco is a diesel engine with a great sense of humour.

ut Boco!

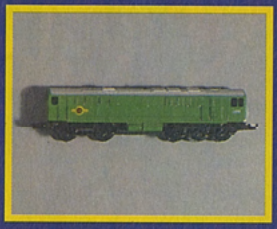
Boco is a hard worker and well liked by all the engines.

Boco came to the Island on loan from British Rail. The Fat Controller soon asked him to stay!

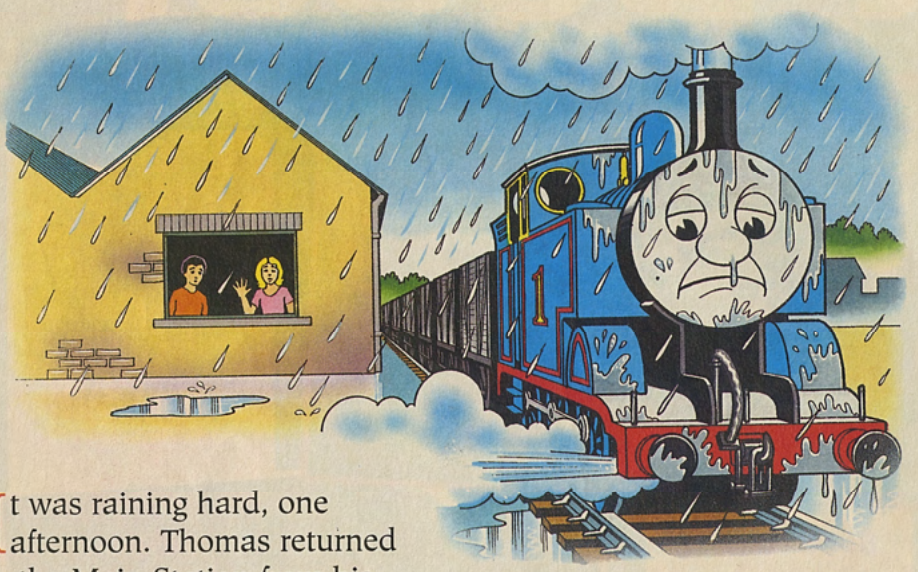


Win a model Boco!

Five lucky readers will win a splendid model Boco from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Boco model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date for entries: 16th August 1996. The first five names out of our post-bag after the closing date will win their very own Boco!



Works And Play

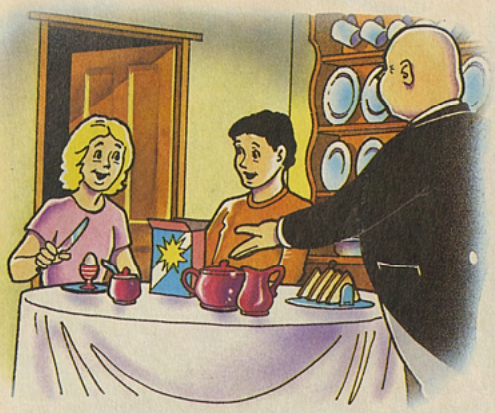


It was raining hard, one afternoon. Thomas returned to the Main Station from his branch line, looking wet and miserable. His blue paintwork was covered with muddy splashes. His whistle didn't work properly. It made an odd gurgling sound and steam hissed loudly from a leaking valve.

Stephen and Bridget saw the little tank engine from the Fat Controller's office window. "Poor Thomas," cried Bridget. "What a mess he's in!" added her brother.

The Fat Controller got up from his desk and went to see Thomas. "Don't worry," he told his grandchildren. "Thomas just needs a thorough clean and service. Then he'll be as good as new." "Oh, I hope so," replied Bridget, anxiously. "Right now Thomas only looks good for scrap!" added Stephen, sadly.

That night, back at their grandparents' house, Stephen and Bridget could not sleep. The

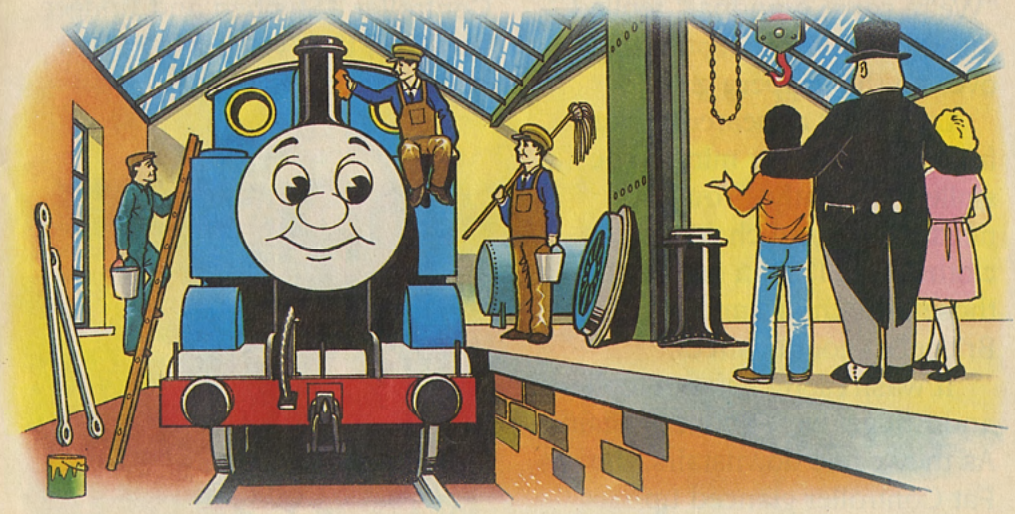


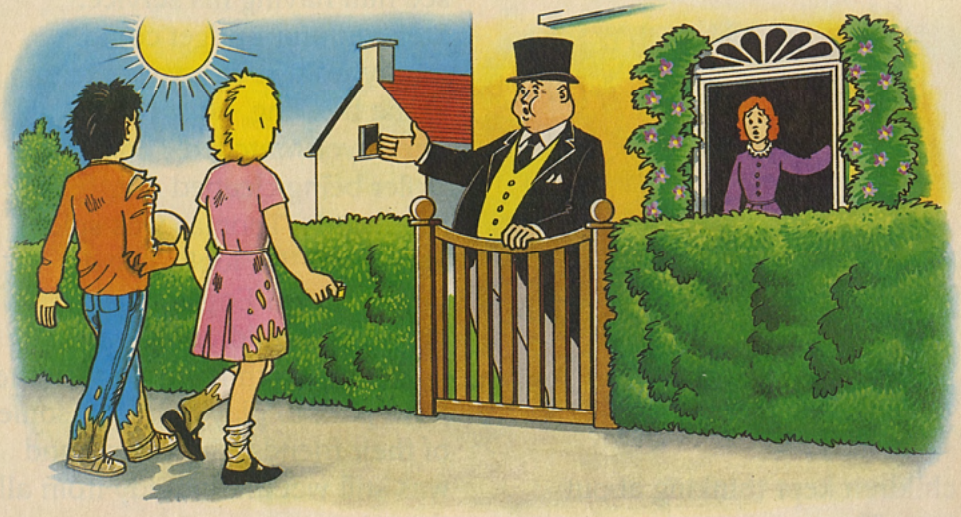
children kept thinking about poor Thomas.

Next morning, the Fat Controller noticed how glum they were. Then he had a bright idea. "How would you like it if I took you both to the Works with Thomas?" said the Fat Controller, kindly. "Then you can see him having his service." Stephen and Bridget could hardly wait. It was very exciting at the bustling, noisy Works. They even watched Thomas' boiler being cleaned out. Afterwards, Thomas was spick and span. "He looks like a Really Useful Engine again," agreed the children, happily.

Later, the children went to the local park to play ball with some of their friends. But the ground was still wet and muddy from all the rain.

When Stephen and Bridget returned to their grandparents' house, the Fat Controller was just arriving home from work. When he met them at the front gate, he could hardly believe his eyes. His grandchildren were





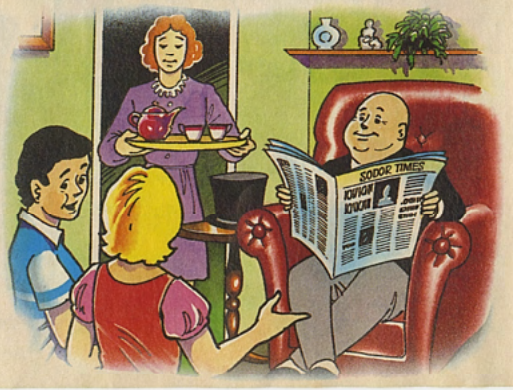
covered in mud from top to toe. Stephen had torn his shirt and a buckle had come off one of Bridget's shoes.

"Gracious! What a sight!" cried the Fat Controller. "You look worse than Thomas did!" "We're sorry, grandpa," replied the children. "We kept falling over on the slippery grass."

Lady Hatt appeared at the front door. "Never mind," she smiled, patiently. "You both need a bath and change of clothes. We'll soon deal with those dirty things and get Bridget's shoe repaired."

It wasn't long before Stephen and Bridget were spotless again. As they came downstairs, the Fat Controller glanced up from his newspaper. "That's better," he smiled. "We're as clean as Thomas now," replied Stephen, cheerfully. "Just like Really Useful children!" joked Lady Hatt, bringing in their tea. "Exactly," laughed the Fat Controller. "Stephen and Bridget look as if they've been serviced at the Works, too!"

THE END



Dot to dot!

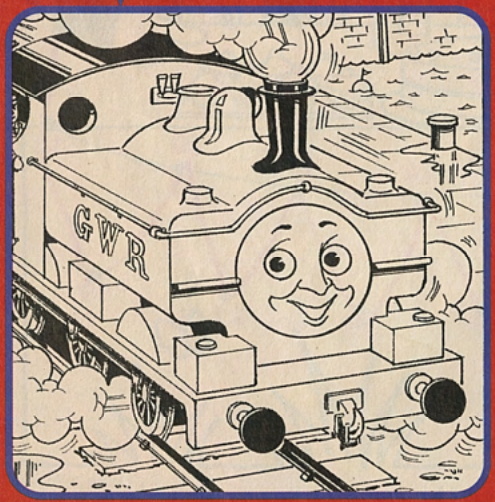
Bridget is having a fantastic day, what makes the fete look bright and gay?

When you have finished colour this page!

WIN a "pop dice" Thomas game!

30 lucky readers can win this fabulous Thomas boardgame! Take the troublesome trucks around the track and deliver them to the sidings!

For your chance to win, simply tell us which engine you can see in the picture below.



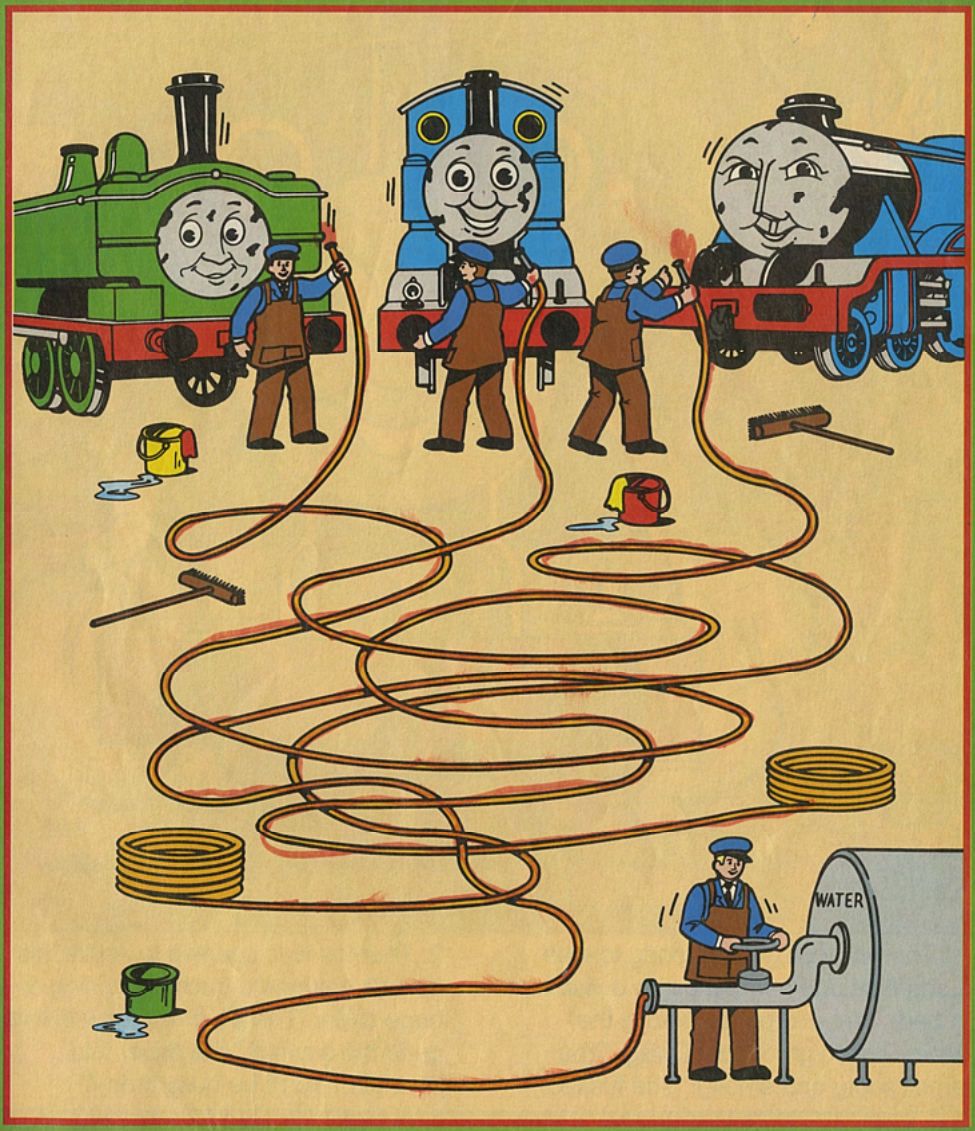
Send your entry with your name and address to; Thomas Pop Dice competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR. All entries must be received by 16th August 1996.

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 230, or write to them at the competition address above.

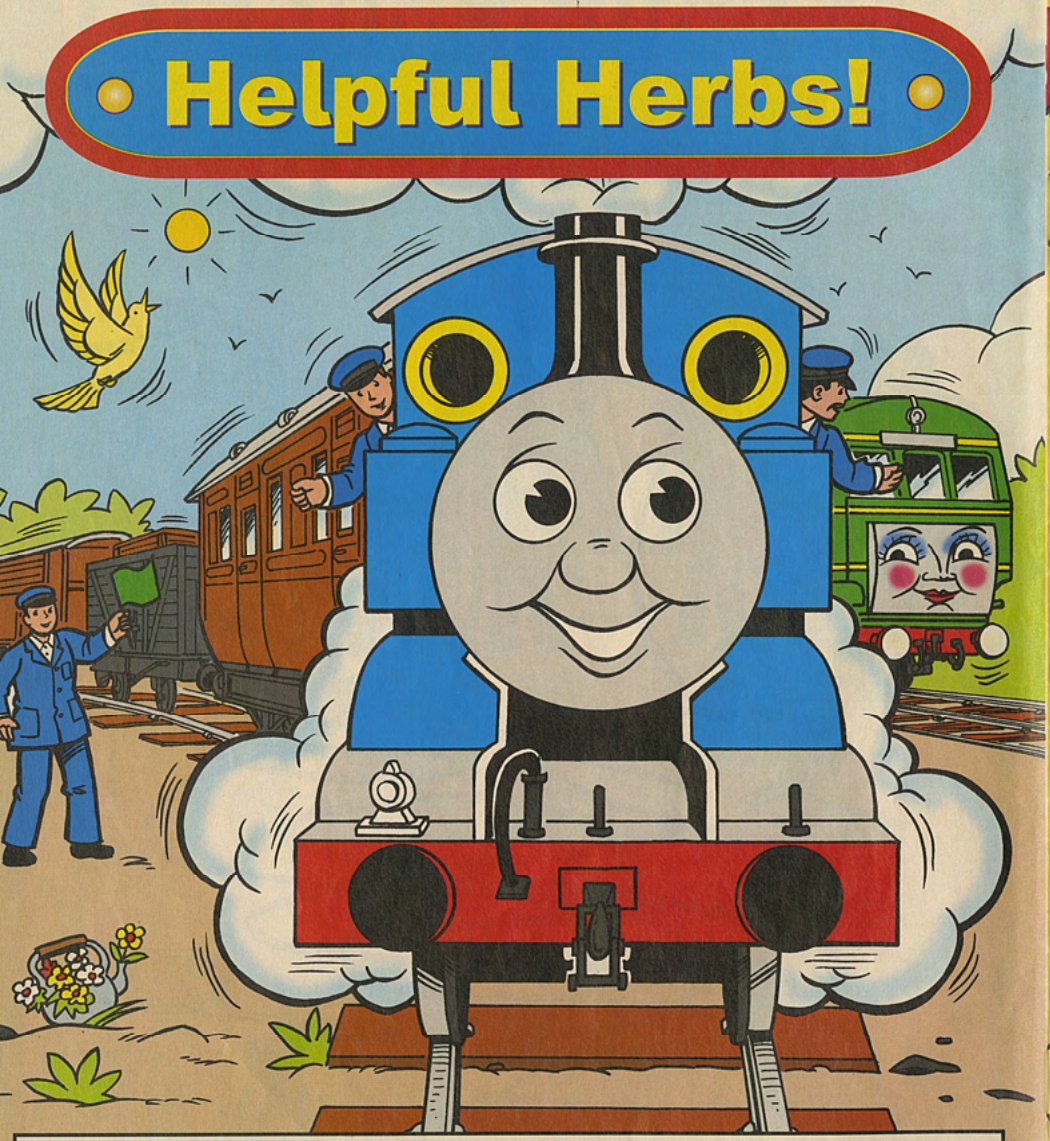
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Hosepipe muddle!

Duck, Thomas and Gordon are very dirty. Follow the hosepipes to find out which engine is about to get wet!



Helpful Herbs!



1. Thomas was getting ready to take Lady Hatt and her friends on a visit to a herb farm. He puffed across the Main Station yard, past Daisy. "You smell sooty and smoky!" she fussed.

2. Thomas was coupled to Annie, his guard's van and a truck containing a huge crate. "There's a new saw in it to go to the sawmill," the driver told Thomas. "You'll be busy today!"

3. Thomas did not mind at all. "A busy engine is a Really Useful one," he smiled. But Thomas could not leave until his guard turned up for work. "He's late," said the driver.

4. Just then the guard came cycling into the yard. "Sorry," he called, wearily. "I was awake for hours last night. When I finally fell asleep, I didn't hear my alarm clock go off."

5. Lady Hatt and her friends were already waiting on the platform. Thomas pulled up alongside and they all stepped aboard Annie. The guard told Lady Hatt what had happened.

6. Then he blew his whistle, waved his green flag and Thomas set off at last. There were bright fields of colourful, strongly scented lavender as Thomas approached the herb farm.

7. "Lots of herbs are grown here," said Lady Hatt when everyone climbed out at the station near the herb farm. "They are used for cooking, making soap, perfumes and other things, too."

8. The farm manager hurried over to Thomas' driver. "Our lorry has broken down," he said. "Will Thomas deliver our herbs to the factory to be made into goods?" Thomas' driver agreed.

9. The factory was close to the sawmill so sacks of herbs were put into Thomas' guard's van. When he arrived at the nearby station, the big saw had to be unloaded by crane.

10. It was a long wait for Thomas and his crew. When the factory owner came to collect the herbs, he found Thomas' guard fast asleep in his van, leaning against the herb sacks.

11. Thomas' driver woke the guard up. "Oh, dear! I'm still feeling tired," he yawned. "The smell of those herbs made me doze off!" "We'd better unload them then," laughed the driver. Later, Thomas returned to the herb farm to pick up Lady Hatt and her friends. They had bought gifts from the farm shop. Lady Hatt kindly gave the guard a herb pillow.

12. "That will help you to sleep well at night," she smiled. "It's lucky we went to the herb farm." Thomas thought so, too. Lady Hatt hung a scented bag of herbs in his cab. Back at the Main Station yard, Thomas pulled up beside Daisy. "What is that lovely smell?" she asked, puzzled. "It's only a smoky old steam engine!" teased Thomas playfully.

The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
I have to go to bed at 6.30 pm. What time does Thomas go to bed?
Love from Jake Hewitt, age 2 ½.

Being Useful is hard work! By six o'clock all the engines look forward to a rest in their shed!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

A wonderful drawing of Stepney by Sam Brown, aged 4.

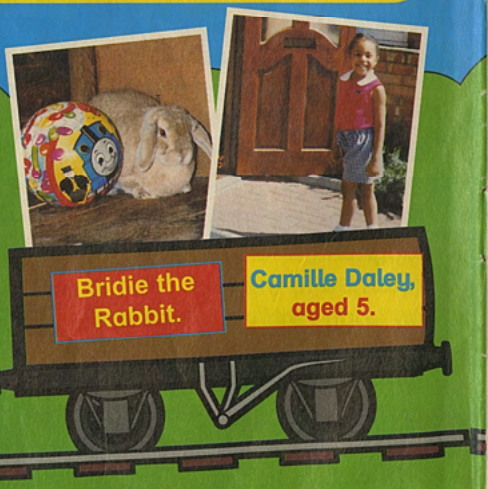
Prize Poem!

Thank you to Darryl Bendell, aged 8 for this funny poem!

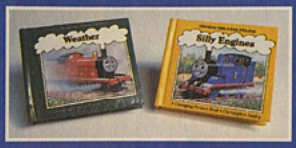
The troublesome trucks always cause bother,
Delighting in the mischief they make.
Noisy and silly they chatter away,
Never giving the others a break.

Happy Birthday

To...Glenn Bullivant, age 4.
Peter Fine, age 5.
George Bennett, age 4.
Judith Ard, age 6.



ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

A very happy Trevor by Ashleigh Harper, aged 3

Marian Ang, aged 8, has made me look very busy!

Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

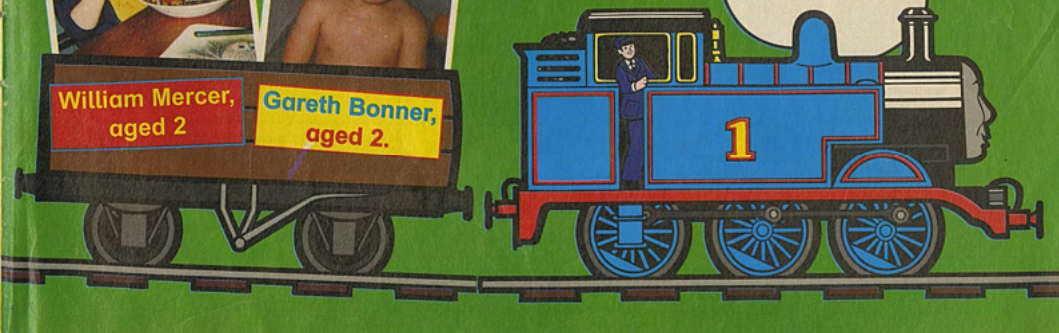
What do sea monsters eat?
Fish and ships!
Anna Ball, age 5.

What room has no windows and no doors?
A mushroom!
Glenn Dakin, age 6.

How can you tell clocks are shy?
Their hands always cover their faces!
Jane Muir, age 5.

William Mercer, aged 2

Gareth Bonner, aged 2.



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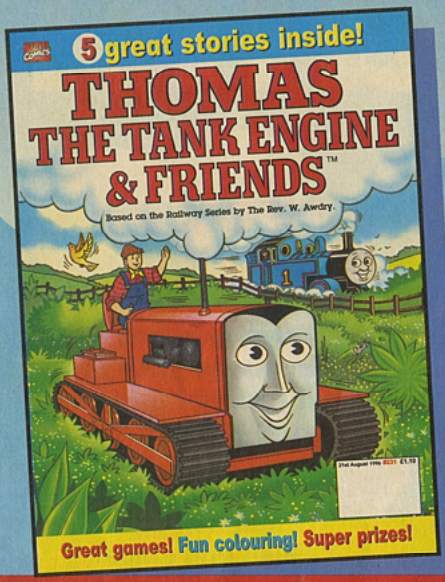

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Five new stories!

Thomas prizes to win!

Puzzles and colouring!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
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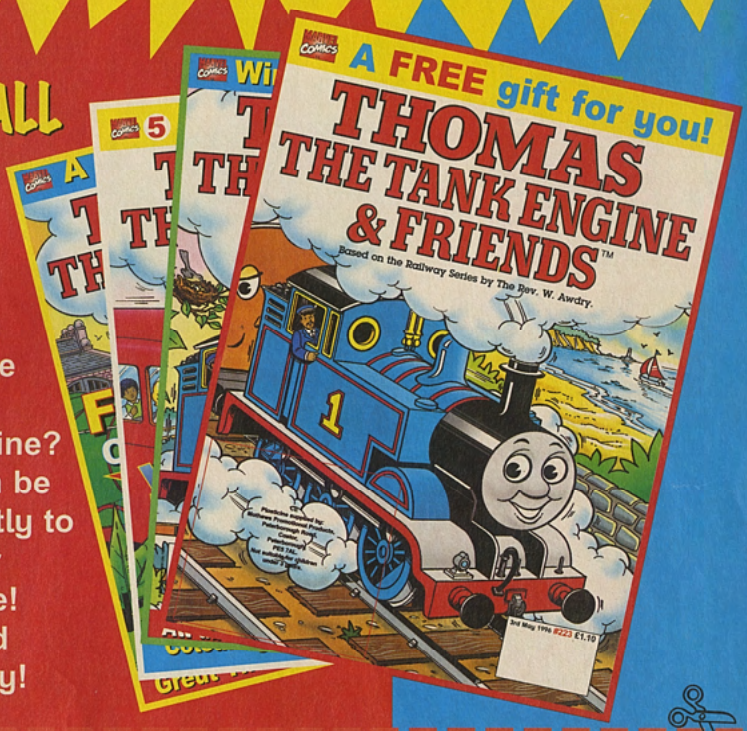

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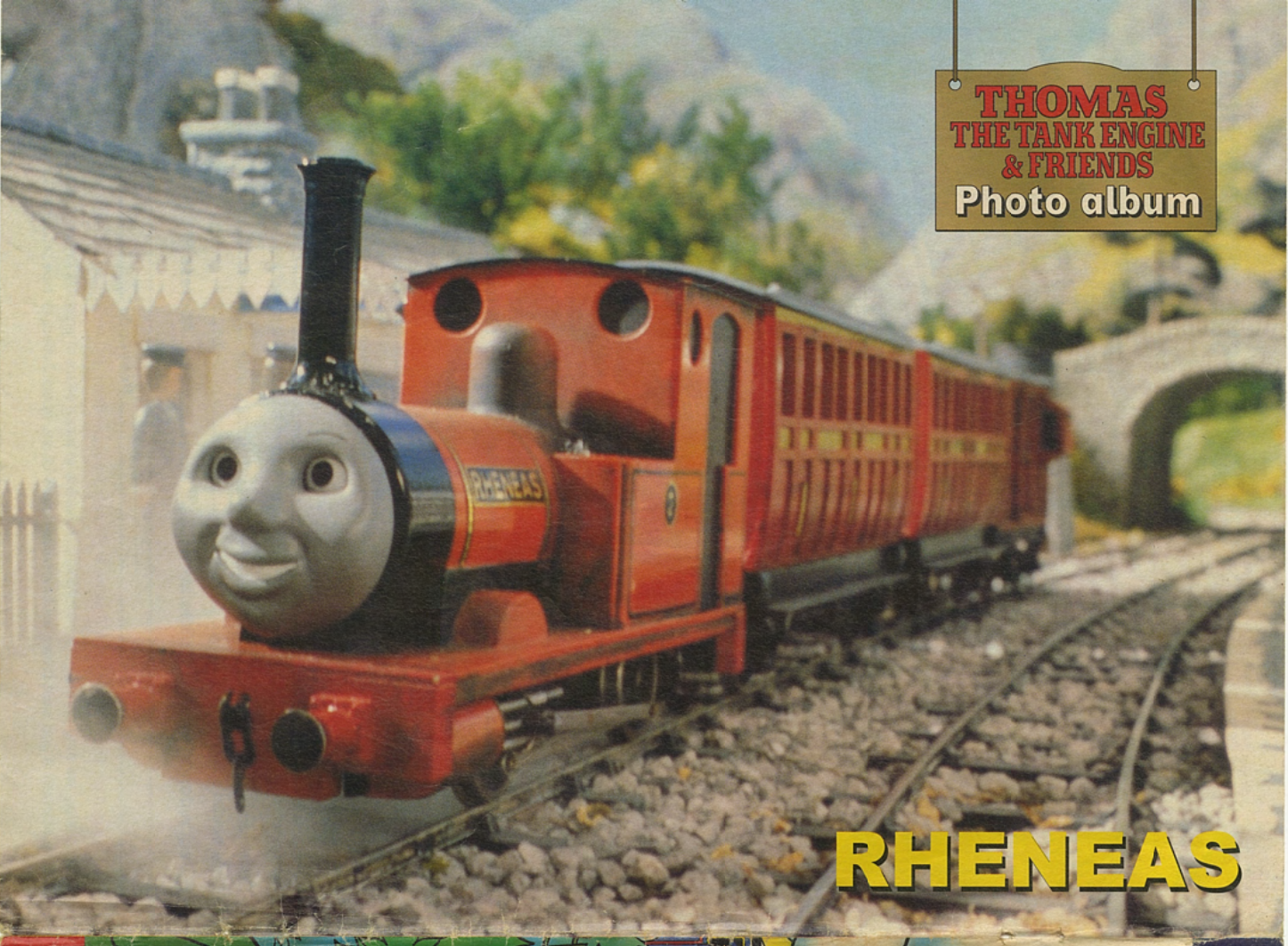
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